



1111 Bayou
La Marque, Texas 77568
409.938.9202

**CITY OF LA MARQUE
CITY COUNCIL
BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES
OF
July 24, 2018**

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of La Marque, Texas will conduct Budget Workshops beginning at 10:30 a. m. on Monday, July 23, 2018, until adjourned, and resuming on Tuesday, July 24, 2018, beginning at 10:30 a.m. until adjourned, and resuming on Thursday, July 26, 2018 beginning at 10:30 a.m. until adjourned, and will continue on Friday, July 27, 2018 beginning at 10:30 a.m., if necessary, until adjourned, at 1109-B Bayou Road for the purpose of considering the following agenda:

(1) CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hocking called the Budget Workshop to order at 10:59 a.m. (Tuesday, July 24, 2018)

(2) ROLL CALL

Bobby Hocking

Keith Bell

Chris Lane

Robert Michetich

Casey Mc Auliffe

Mayor

Mayor Pro-Tem, Councilmember District A

Councilmember, District B

Councilmember, District C

Councilwoman, District D

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Carol Buttler

Robin Eldridge

City Manager

City Clerk

(3) Review and Discuss Proposed Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Departmental Budgets and all Funds

A Revised Workshop Worksheet was distributed - Supplemental Expenditures Capital Outlay from each department. (pages 367-370)

Ms. Kou explained some of the capital projects and that those go hand in hand with debts. "Some cities do separate budgets for capital projects." (long term, most times you need debt to fund those projects). She explained the difference between good and bad debt.

The City has maintained above 90 days surplus for the last few years, which is good. The City's goal is to be AAA, the City is at AA- currently but, still at a good standing. Ms. Kou explained the 80 - 20 rule. "On the revenue side, you have 20% of your revenue sources generating 80% of your total revenues. Our goal is to use 20% of our expenditure sources to pay for 80% of our needs. I flip that and see if we can apply that same theory to the expenditure side. It's a balancing act."

Currently, the city has a 136-day surplus. The question was asked of how much money is available to spend, if there was a 90 or 120 days surplus. A day is worth \$30,000.00. After



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a lengthy discussion, it was said that for a 110-day surplus, they would have \$593,791.45, not including the \$117,000.00, which is \$734,096.30. Game room money was briefly discussed.

Mayor called for a ten- minute break at 11:30 a.m. so that the Finance Director could get a spread sheet to show what a 100, 110, and a 120- days surplus would look like.

Mayor reconvened the Budget Workshop at 12:01 p.m. then broke for lunch at the same time.

Mayor Hocking reconvened the Budget Workshop at 1:12 P.M.

It was suggested to start on page 367, supplementals.

CITY CLERK/CITY MANAGER

City Manager's office and City Clerk are asking for an Administrative Assistant. City Manager added, "We are asking to "share" a position, a "floater". We feel like there is enough between the two of us that this person would be busy." Mayor Hocking added that although Council does not get involved in personnel matters, but that this person should be of quality and is much needed. The City Clerk would utilize the person in this position for special projects (scanning, etc.); it was said that it would be a structured position with each day outlined and planned out for this new position. The City Manager has and will continue to utilize the person in this position for returning phone calls, answering emails and other assignments. This person was approved for this next year's budget.

CODE COMPLIANCE

Asking for two Code Compliance officers (including vehicles and equipment)

"Due to the amount of lots we are maintaining and the increasing number of substandard houses, and with the new rental registration program, I am requesting two new Code Enforcement Officers, to assist with all of this." There are currently just two Code Enforcement Officers. It was the consensus of Council to allow for the filling of one new position as Code Enforcement Officer, with the promise to look into the hiring of another employee in the spring. "With fees being collected from this program, it can pay for itself over a period", Mayor Pro-Tem Bell stated. Further discussion included waiving the registration fee for the rest of this year. Beginning in January 2019, they will begin charging the fees. It was asked that all the HOA's be notified of this new change.

FIRE DEPARTMENT- 9 additional personnel for the new Fire Station, it was decided to wait on this item until after their discussion with Chief Grimm.

IT

They were asking for a pay increase for the IT Technician (Brandon) of \$2.00 per hour. Council agreed. (\$5006.16)

MUNICIPAL COURT - One, part-time Juvenile Case Manager

In addition, it was asked for an ordinance to be drawn up so that the City can begin collecting a \$5.00 case manager fee, per conviction (in efforts to help juvenile crime and hopefully to deter those juveniles from becoming harder criminals). The State also pays



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the City \$1.00 per conviction, with this ordinance in place. This money will pay for this position. It was said that there was an average of 300 to 350 convictions per month. Further discussion involved what types of programs and resources are available to the juveniles, including the following help or training: Parenting skills, Crisis intervention, youth coping skill training, family counselling and many others. It was asked that the City Manager to craft this position, working with Ms. Bell and Judge Baker and to include both Lane and McAuliffe for their input. A new lease vehicle is being asked for so that the City Marshall can have a consistent vehicle. (\$8,500.00)

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The need for a “drone” to investigate traffic collisions that result in serious bodily injury or death of drivers, that will provide an overhead view of the investigation site was discussed. (\$1,000.00) (May be able to be purchased out of this budget); bathroom hardware is needed in the jail cells. (\$12,000.00); A watch guard server (\$5,500.00); Eight (8) patrol vehicles were discussed for financing (lease-purchase program) the phasing in of these vehicles; in-car video systems, the switching over from one company to another was briefly discussed. Jail camera system (8)- tamper-proof (\$18,000.00)

Discussion followed as to what the Police Collective Bargaining and a few members of City Council discussed about in their three-year proposed contract. 1st year -2% cost of living raise; 2nd year 2 ½ % cost of living raise and the third year a 3% cost of living raise); Corporal positions- incentives (\$250.00 for each test taken and passes); Fitness program for each test passed- \$250.00; Due to increase in technology, extra demands from the District Attorneys’ office attributed to the Brady’s Act, for copies of in-car video camera and body cameras, it is falling on the Evidence Custodian, he is asking for a second Records Clerk and to be cross-trained. The Corporal positions was clarified (February 2019 in effect).

Mayor called for a break at 2:58 p.m.

The Budget Workshop reconvened at 3:56 p.m.

PUBLIC SERVICES - Shop renovation- remodeling (better utilized- and insurance compliant- using Bonds; Playground equipment for pocket parks; Parks other than Mahan and Highland Bayou parks. (Itemized list of parks, and what type of equipment was asked for). (\$20,000). Utility Fund - One (1) one-ton truck (lease (\$13,000.00). Trench shoring box; Boring bullet (\$5000.00) and air compressor; Furniture for new office (Bonds) and Utility Fund; new restroom fixtures for both Mahan and Highland Bayou Parks (\$31,500.00) includes installation. Update GPS services (\$10,000.00)- Utility Fund; Removal of underground storage tanks and replace with above ground tanks (fuel) -\$45,000.00. They are asking for three more Workers for Department #12 (Streets and Drainage); (\$20,000.00) for a City-wide drainage study-2005 Bonds. Concrete and sidewalk repairs. All current workers are being trained to use all the equipment. Water Development Board project grant (elevated storage tanks); fire hydrant study; valve replacement program. There are currently six workers in that department. Discussion followed as to the future and or the need for the shop, it was clarified of what kinds of minimal work, but needed work that the shop employees provide, also City Hall carpet replaced and removal of the partitions.



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LIBRARY - Trash receptacles- \$1,200.00 (in the current budget); Bilingual station- in current budget; Asphalt and overlay of the library parking lot (\$22,000.00)

Conference Chairs, side chairs were discussed; EOC Chairs; walking trail for one of the parks; another Code Enforcement Officer; CRS Community Rating System

Capital Projects were briefly discussed (Goodman Corp.); pocket park in Saltgrass Crossing- the HOA is wanting it to be a private park that they would maintain. They are asking the City for \$3,000.00 to help fund this park, but that it would remain a private park. (later discussion); splash pads in pocket parks were discussed and it was said that the maintenance is costly. (later discussion); or ask for grant money. Repairing fences and other at the current parks is needed. Contracting with a company that could write grants for the City was encouraged and discussed. Contract mowing for the City's drainage ditches ROW- a map was discussed (color coded); the need for a slope mower employee was discussed and asked for or to find a company that has someone with a slope mower; certain areas in the city ROW's in town (TXDOT, DD2) will be mowed occasionally but a letter should be mailed to both entities for the enforcement for them to mow their own ROW's and ditches. Further discussion resulted in adding \$20,000.00 into mowing to help in these areas. A schedule will be created among staff and the City Manager is to get with the Drainage District to see what they have in their budget for mowing and will also mail them a letter. Open space for tree preservation - no extra money required at this time

Mayor Hocking called for a break from the Budget Workshop at 5:06 p.m.

Mayor Hocking reconvened the Budget Workshop at 6:11 p.m.

Discussion began with the Omega Bay TIRZ figures- Marsh Darcy put a chart together that provided a time line of five years (beginning with 2019). HOA will still have to decide whether their citizens will agree to a TIRZ. This is still under discussion. No money is needed at this time. Part of the money would be coming from the residents. A Tax Increment would be going into that fund. All documentations were based on the current tax rolls. The increment that the city would be providing would be \$15,000.00, but this idea was still in the works and by no means a done deal at this time. It is still in the discussion stages; \$20,000.00 for the Saltgrass park was set aside, that would initially be a City Park. TNMP and staff members had met about some projects (Borondo Pines- street lights in addition to decorative lights- TNMP will take care of the decorative lights; Taylor Circle (highest priority) five street lights (\$25,000.00); TNMP- LED lighting under the care of PUC, it is unknown until 2019, whether they will be using the LED lighting for their standards; lighting in the Anita and Union streets (revitalization) at no cost to the City.

Keep La Marque Beautiful was given \$10,000.00 for their projects and or programs.

A brief overview of Thursday 's Budget Workshop; PEG Fund and line by line if needed; Fire Department is on the Agenda for Thursday, with a brief detailing first.

(4) ADJOURNMENT

It was the consensus of Council to adjourn the Special Called Meeting at 6:37p.m.

MEETING ADJOURNED.



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This unofficial copy of the minutes from the above meeting are posted for convenience only. Executed or certified copies of the minutes can be requested by contacting the City Clerk.